



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, call Stephanie Strutner at 457-3007 (o) or 742-4690 (c)

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### **Dispose of Unused Medicine Safely at Operation Medicine Cabinet during Earth Day Festival, Saturday, April 27**

Currently there are few safe and convenient ways for consumers to dispose of unused prescription drugs. They can be found in nearly every home in America. Use of prescription drugs is rising among people of all ages, and studies show use increases with age. Five out of six people over the age of 65 take at least one medication and almost half the elderly take three or more. Of these medications, ***twenty to sixty percent go unused and are eventually disposed.***

Nearly all unused pharmaceuticals enter either our solid waste system or our sewage system. Neither disposal method is environmentally sound. Pharmaceuticals flushed down the toilet pass through our sewage treatment plants, which are generally not designed to screen for these chemicals. Pharmaceuticals discarded in landfills can seep into the surrounding groundwater table. Several studies, including a 2002 analysis by the US Geological Survey of 139 streams across 30 states found that 80 percent of waterways tested had measurable concentrations of prescription and nonprescription drugs, steroids, and reproductive hormones. It is important to remember that many of these substances are biologically active. In other words, the ingredients can cause problems in humans and animals.

Collaborating together, the Anderson County Sheriff's Office along with the Clinton Police Department, Oak Ridge Police Department, Oliver Springs Police Department, Allies for Substance Abuse Prevention and Food City will host "***Operation Medicine Cabinet***" as part of the Oak Ridge Earth Day Festival on Saturday, April 27 from 10AM until 2 PM at four locations within Anderson County.

Locations include:

Oak Ridge Police Department; 200 S. Tulane Avenue, Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Food City, Oak Ridge; 1199 Oak Ridge Turnpike, Oak Ridge, TN 37830

Food City, Clinton; 507 S Charles G Seivers Boulevard, Clinton, TN 37716

Food City, Oliver Springs; 508 E Tri County Boulevard, Oliver Springs, TN 37840

Disposing of your medicines at an official collection event will ensure that they will not be stolen from the garbage, will not enter our environment and eliminates the potential for abuse and overdoses at home.

For more information call ASAP at 865-457-3007.

**What we accept for disposal:**

- Prescription medications (unwanted, expired, unused)
- Antibiotics/steroids
- Cold and flu medications
- Vitamins/herbal supplements
- Pet medications
- Medication Samples
- Medicated ointments/lotions
- Unused sharps (epinephrine, unused pricking devices)

**What we do NOT accept for disposal:**

- Business waste
- Used needles and other sharps

Used needles and other sharps should be disposed by placing the sharps/needles in a sealed plastic container and putting that in with your household waste.

Collaborating partners would like to thank Food City for initiating this important event in Anderson County and for allowing their stores to be used as collection locations.

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